Fake LPG cylinders

†1998. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fake/duplicate LPG cylinders are available in the market;

(b) if so, the plans of Government to put a curb on it;

(c) the number of accidents registered during the last three years due to such fake cylinders; and

(d) the number of such businessmen punished during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are procuring LPG cylinders from the units approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and having valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

(b) LPG cylinders are manufactured under the close supervision of a third party inspection agency, *viz.* BIS, which enforces strict control over the manufacturing process. OITC also carries out surprise audit of cylinder manufacturing units to ascertain the quality standards of the cylinders. Cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are also checked for their quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake cylinders from un-authorised sources. On detection of sub-standard/ spurious cylinders, the same are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped/ crushed to prevent their entry into circulation.

(c) and (d) OMCs have not reported any accident on account of spurious cylinders supplied by their distributors during the last three years.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.